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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/725,407	TERUNUMA ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	A. Dexter Tugbang	3729	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Application filed on December 3, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 2.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. 09/603,970.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>12/3/03</u> | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows.

NOTE: The changes below are minor in nature to merely update the status of the parent application and to correct informalities with the grammar of the claim language. The changes below in no way affect the scope of the claimed invention.

In the Specification

In the specification on page 1, the paragraph between the title and the first line of text has been replaced as follows.

This is a Division of Application No. 09/603,970, filed June 26, 2000, now U.S. Patent 6,678,941. The entire disclosure of the prior application is hereby incorporated by reference herein in its entirety.

In the Claims

In Claim 1, the phrase of "on the parts" (line 23) has been replaced with –on parts--; and the phrase of "as a mask" (line 32) has been replaced with –as another mask--.

Reasons for Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

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The prior art does not teach, fairly suggest, or render obvious, all of the limitations of the claimed invention including: forming, in the non-magnetic film, a hollowed hole, exposing the gap film; forming a mask to cover the first and second magnetic films after removing the plate underfilm; and removing parts of the plate film and the plate underfilm not covered by the mask.

The closes prior art reference is directed to Miyauchi et al (U. S. Patent 6,047,462). Miyauchi teaches a process for manufacturing a thin film magnetic head including: forming a non-magnetic film (e.g. 313 in Fig. 7) over a gap film (e.g. 340); forming a first magnetic film (e.g. 312); forming a second magnetic film (e.g. 322); forming frames (e.g. 14); removing the frames; and etching the first magnetic film into a definitive pattern through the second magnetic film used as another mask.

Miyauchi does not teach: forming a hollowed hole in the non-magnetic film; removing any parts of any plate underfilm exposed after removing the frames, forming a mask to cover the first and second magnetic films, removing the parts of any plate film and plate underfilm not covered by the mask.

To modify Miyauchi by adding the missing features above would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art as this would simply destroy the structure of Miyauchi since the magnetic head of Miyauchi does not include any additional layers of at least a plate film and a plate underfilm, or any hollowed hole through the non-magnetic film.

Accordingly, Claims 1 and 2 are allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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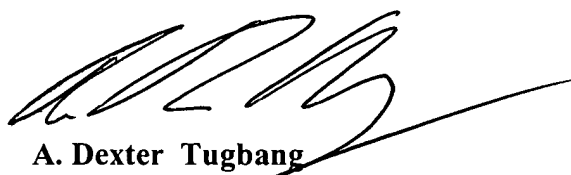
fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to A. Dexter Tugbang whose telephone number is 571-272-4570.

The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter Vo can be reached on 571-272-4690. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



A. Dexter Tugbang
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3729

March 6, 2006